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Letter dated 28 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the murder in Abidjan of Radio France Internationale reporter, Jean Hélène, issued on 27 October 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the murder in Abidjan of Radio France Internationale reporter, Jean Hélène, issued on 27 October 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The EU vigorously condemns the cowardly murder in Abidjan of Radio France Internationale journalist, Jean Hélène, and presents its sincerest condolences to his family and to the editorial staff of RFI.

The EU appreciates the efforts made by the Ivorian authorities to bring the author of this crime to justice and calls for a swift, full and effective investigation into the circumstances surrounding the journalist's murder so that justice can be seen to be done. The EU considers it a matter of urgency that the authorities re-establish control over the security forces, in compliance with the rule of law. The Presidency urges the Ivorian authorities to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and physical integrity of foreign nationals and to protect Ivorian and foreign journalists.

The EU renews the calls made in its statement of 22 September 2003 and appeals to all the political forces, the institutions, the media and the people of Côte d'Ivoire to oppose every form of violence and the use of force and to return to the path of peaceful dialogue, cooperation and social reconciliation.

The EU hopes that the tragic death of a journalist while doing his job will not cause further divisions but that on the contrary it may be an opportunity for Côte d'Ivoire to unite in the process of national reconciliation based on the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements, so that Ivorians can immediately begin working in harmony for the reunification of the country and the preparation of peaceful democratic elections in 2005.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.